United Nations S/2012/457

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 June 2012

Original: English

# Identical letters dated 19 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to express my grave concern about the deteriorating security situation in the Sinai peninsula, following a series of deadly attacks launched from the area.

Early yesterday morning, a group of heavily armed terrorists infiltrated from the Sinai across the border into Southern Israel, placing an explosive device on Israel soil. The terrorists exploded this device as a vehicle carrying a group of Israeli civilian workers was passing through the area. Then, they opened fire on the civilian vehicle with an anti-tank missile, grenades and light weapons, killing Saeed Fashafshe, an Israeli citizen and father of four young children.

In another incident, on 16 June 2012, terrorists fired two Grad rockets from the Sinai into Southern Israel, which exploded in the areas of Ovda and Mizpeh Ramon.

These appalling attacks reflect a disturbing situation in which the Sinai desert is increasingly used by terrorists to launch attacks against Israel.

As turmoil continues to sweep across the Middle East, it is critical that the international community send a clear message to the terrorists in our region. Israel expects the Security Council and all responsible members of the international community to condemn these attacks immediately and unequivocally.

Israel has exercised and will continue to exercise its right to self-defence, as appropriate, and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

12-38374 (E) 220612

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United Nations S/2012/458

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 June 2012

Original: English

# Letter dated 15 June 2012 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), established by Security Council resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974 and recently extended by resolution 2028 (2011) of 21 December 2011.

Following the usual consultations, I would like to inform you of my intention to appoint Major General Iqbal Singh Singha (India) as the Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNDOF. Major General Singha will replace Major General Natalio C. Ecarma (Philippines), who completes his assignment on 13 August 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Major General Ecarma for his dedication and effective leadership of UNDOF.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) BAN Ki-moon

12-38251 (E) 200612

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United Nations S/2012/459

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 June 2012

Original: English

# Letter dated 19 June 2012 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 15 June 2012 (S/2012/458) concerning your intention to appoint Major General Iqbal Singh Singha (India) as the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Li Baodong
President of the Security Council

12-38259 (E) 200612

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United Nations S/2012/460

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 June 2012
English
Original: French

# Identical letters dated 19 June 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 June 2012 addressed to you by Raymond Tshibanda N'tungamulongo, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophone Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, concerning the deterioration of the security situation in the Province of North Kivu, in the eastern part of the country (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zénon **Mukongo Ngay**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

12-38287 (E) 210612 220612

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## Annex to the identical letters dated 19 June 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that the security situation in the Province of North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is deteriorating.

On 30 April 2012, a mutiny broke out in three units of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) in North and South Kivu. Led by their former commander, Bosco Ntaganda, a number of former members of the armed group known as Congrès national pour la défense du peuple (CNDP), wh had been integrated into the army following the peace agreements signed in Gom in 2009, had deserted in an attempt to launch a fresh armed rebellion.

Upon being routed by FARDC, these elements, numbering no more than a few hundred out of the 4,000-odd men who had been integrated into the army, fled into Virunga National Park, where they retreated into an area of at most four square kilometres abutting the border with Rwanda, among the hills around Runyonyi, Mbuzi and Tshianzu.

In a vain attempt to give a political character to what is in reality nothing but a desperate attempt to evade the clutches of the justice system, which were beginning to close on Bosco Ntaganda for the crimes he had committed under the Union of Congolese Patriots in Ituri, the rebels are shrewdly seeking to give themselves a new identity by renaming their movement M23.

Their real motives in so doing, however, are unrelated to the commitments entered into in 2009, which they assert have not been honoured by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Government is concerned at the turn the situation is taking, especially as this mutiny has resulted in the displacement of thousands of Congolese families, thereby creating a fresh humanitarian crisis.

The Government wishes to direct the attention of the Security Council to the fact that, according to consistent information obtained from a variety of sources, the rebels are receiving support from the neighbouring country of Rwanda, and fighters are being systematically recruited in that country. Both Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are members of the African Union, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and such support and recruitment activities constitute violations of all the legal instruments freely entered into by both countries in the framework of those organizations and of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

In view of the seriousness of these facts, the Government took the time to confirm them with its own resources. An investigation was carried out, while concurrently the joint mechanisms established several years ago by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda were activated with a view to determining the facts on the ground.

The findings of that investigation and the enquiries of the joint mechanisms now enable us to formulate the following conclusions:

1. Among the rebels there are some 200 to 300 individuals who were recruited in Rwandan territory through an active network operating in that neighbouring country.

2. A number of the fighters so recruited are Rwandan nationals who were infiltrated into the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they underwent a minimum of training and were then deployed at the front against FARDC.

3. Their numbers include minors and very young persons.

4. In their flight, the rebels abandoned all their armament, 38 tons of it in all, which was recovered by FARDC. Yet it is noteworthy that their firepower has greatly increased since their arrival in the Runyonyi-Tshianzu-Mbuzi triangle, an area that abuts the boundary between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

5. Unnatural alliances have been formed. For example, members of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), some of whom had been repatriated to Rwanda by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), have joined the ranks of the rebels, as is clear from the fact that a number of them have been captured at the front.

It appears from the foregoing that Rwandan territory has been used for the preparation and perpetration of a plot which began as a mere mutiny, but is evolving dangerously into an attempt to breach the peace between two countries in the Great Lakes region, thereby jeopardizing the progress that has been achieved in that connection since 2009.

Accordingly, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo urgently requests the Security Council to:

(a) Condemn the fresh attempt at rebellion led by former members of CNDP, now calling itself M23;

(b) Reaffirm the inviolability of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(c) Condemn the abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including population displacement, that have been inflicted upon the Congolese people of the Provinces of North and South Kivu and identify the members of M23 as being responsible for those acts;

(d) Condemn the foreign support that M23 is receiving, and hold those providing it jointly responsible for all the reprehensible acts committed by that movement;

(e) Remind Rwanda of its international obligations and demand the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of any members of its armed forces who may be serving in the ranks of the rebels;

(f) Assume its responsibilities with respect to the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolutions, in order to terminate any foreign support for the rebels;

(g) Take all appropriate measures to terminate the activities of all negative forces, including FDLR, CNDP and M23.

I take this opportunity to reiterate, on behalf of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, that we very much appreciate the effective partnership that has been established on the ground between FARDC and MONUSCO. In particular, I should like to mention the admirable role played by MONUSCO in protecting civilian populations and supporting FARDC.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Raymond **Tshibanda N'tungamulongo**

United Nations A/66/853–S/2012/461

General Assembly
Security Council

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19 June 2012
English
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**General Assembly**
**Sixty-sixth session**
Agenda item 55
**Questions relating to information**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-seventh year**

## Identical letters dated 19 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following.

At an extraordinary session held in Doha on 2 June 2012, the League of Arab States at the ministerial level adopted a flawed resolution requesting the administrators of the Arab satellite communications organization Arabsat and the Egyptian satellite company Nilesat to take the necessary action to stop broadcasting Syrian governmental and non-governmental satellite channels. That unprecedented political resolution blatantly contradicts the principle of freedom of information, as well as the Arab Satellite Broadcasting Charter adopted by the Arab minsters of information in 2008, article 5, paragraph 4 of which provides for

> "compliance with the principle of freedom to receive and retransmit broadcasts. Throughout the territory of States members, Arab citizens shall have the right to receive any television transmission originating in the territory of any State member of the League of Arab States".

The contemptible resolution of the League also violates article 4 of the Arab Satellite Broadcasting Charter, which states that entities and service providers that transmit or retransmit satellite broadcasts shall comply with the following general principles:

1. Openness and transparency of information, and protection of the right of the public to receive accurate information;
2. Protection of free competition in broadcast services;
3. Protection of the rights and interests of broadcast service receivers;
4. Provision of comprehensive services to the public.

12-38397 (E) 250612 260612

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Moreover, the resolution is a blatant violation of the principles of the media profession. It is acutely at odds with the freedom of access to information, as defined at the World Summit on the Information Society held in Geneva in 2003; the approach of the General Assembly Committee on Information; the free flow of information, knowledge and ideas in the information society; and the right to comprehensive and non-discriminatory access to information and communication technology in all countries. Furthermore, the Arab States that pressed for the resolution to be adopted censor their own media in every way, excluding alternative views from the media discourse. The resolution effectively contradicts the proposal of the United Nations Special Envoy to Syria, Kofi Annan, a proposal that was endorsed by Security Council resolution 2042 (2012). The fifth point of the proposal calls on the Syrian Government to allow the media to enter Syria. Since 25 March 2012, over 207 media teams from around the world have entered Syria, in addition to correspondents from over 100 media organizations that are permanently accredited in Damascus. How can it be right for the Annan proposal to require that the Syrian Government allow foreign media freely to enter its territory, while the Council of the League of Arab States requests Arab media organizations to stop broadcasting Syrian governmental and non-governmental satellite channels?

The resolution of the League of Arab States amounts to media piracy. It reveals the hidden schemes of its sponsors, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Those States have adopted a plan to target Syria and its people by funding and arming terrorists, while also attempting to conceal what is really happening in the country by suppressing the Syrian national media in favour of the spurious fabrications about Syria and its Government that are concocted and disseminated by their own channels, which openly incite violence, killing, massacres and the continuation of bloodshed in Syria.

We remain committed to the proposal of the Special Envoy as regards the free entrance of the media to Syria. We stress that the relevant international agencies must take the appropriate positions regarding the resolution of the League of Arab States, which should be withdrawn. It is a flagrant violation of the most fundamental principles of freedom of information and the human right to access information. It seeks to silence the Syrian national media; but the latter belongs to the Syrian people, so any move against it is a move against them. More dangerously still, such shameful yet momentous resolutions can set a precedent for the work of the international media in other parts of the world, endangering the free flow of information and jeopardizing the achievements of the international community in that area.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations

United Nations A/66/855–S/2012/462

General Assembly
Security Council

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20 June 2012

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 38
The situation in Afghanistan

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

# The situation in Afghanistan and its implication for international peace and security

## Report of the Secretary-General

## I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/13 and Security Council resolution 2041 (2012), in which the Council requested me to report on developments in Afghanistan every three months.

2. The report provides an update on the activities of the United Nations in Afghanistan, including significant humanitarian, development and human rights efforts, since the previous report issued on 5 March 2012 (A/66/728-S/2012/133). It also provides a summary of key political and security developments and regional and international events related to Afghanistan.

## II. Relevant developments

### A. Political developments

3. Afghanistan's nascent peace and reconciliation efforts faced a number of challenges during this reporting period. On 15 March, the Taliban unilaterally suspended talks over the proposed creation of an office in Qatar, amid an apparent deadlock with the United States of America over the status of such an office and preconditions for prisoner transfers. Diplomatic groundwork related to the office in Qatar has continued to be laid with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Zalmay Rassoul, visiting Doha on 3 April to discuss a wide-ranging bilateral agreement between the two countries along with a proposed Qatari embassy in Kabul. Meanwhile, a five-member delegation representing the armed Hezb-e Islami faction of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar met with the High Peace Council on 13 April and President Karzai on 16 April. It presented a 17-point plan centred on the presence of foreign forces, the legitimacy of the Government, future elections and the



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constitution. However, on 12 May, Hezb-e Islami suspended engagement, citing concern over the new strategic partnership agreement between Afghanistan and the United States. The Taliban also condemned the agreement. However, its emphasis in a statement on 20 May that the movement had left "all military and political doors open" may present renewed opportunities.

4. The appointment on 14 April of a new Chair of the High Peace Council, Salahuddin Rabbani, son of the previous Chair, Burhanuddin Rabbani, assassinated in September 2011, should help to reinvigorate the work of the Council. While seeking to follow in his father's footsteps, he has emphasized the need to improve inclusiveness in the Council. On 13 May, senior Council member Mawlawi Arsala Rahmani, a minister under the Taliban regime who had reconciled and was removed in 2011 from the sanctions list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), was killed in Kabul. While competing theories over the murder remain, Salahuddin Rabbani stated that the event should not deter peacemakers. The Taliban has denied responsibility for the assassination, claimed by a group calling itself the Mullah Dadullah Front, named after a notorious Taliban commander killed in 2007. A splinter group boasting of operational autonomy, together with recent reports of alleged internal detentions and even executions of Taliban commanders, could signal increasing fissures within the Taliban.

5. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) continues to support the work of the High Peace Council, mostly through logistical assistance to outreach efforts. Provincial peace councils and local authorities remain focused on initiatives aimed at lower-level combatants. According to the joint secretariat of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, as of mid-May 4,641 former anti-Government elements had been formally enrolled. In addition, discussions were held with a further 1,339 potential candidates for reintegration. The programme receives technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) while UNAMA, as a member of the technical committee, continues to advocate for issues of vetting, community participation and impunity, which are key to the credibility of the process and strongly advocated by Afghan communities. In the reporting period, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) approved three delisting requests submitted by the Government.

6. Following unprecedented support by the Wolesi Jirga (the lower house of the National Assembly) for all nine of the President's ministerial nominees, the entire Cabinet has now secured the approval of the legislature. On 2 June, the Wolesi Jirga voted on the two candidates for the Supreme Court; Abdul Malek Kamawi, a senior court official, was confirmed, while Mohammed Sarwar Danesh, previously Minister of Justice and acting Minister of Higher Education, was rejected. A new Chief Justice remains to be named.

7. There has been progress, albeit slow, on the legislative agenda, with the Wolesi Jirga passing laws on civilian aviation, the structure of the judiciary and the personnel affairs of police officers. The Meshrano Jirga (upper house) has ratified the civilian aviation law, the strategic partnership agreement between India and Afghanistan and the 2010 gas pipeline framework agreement between Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Turkmenistan. On 21 April, the national budget for the Afghan year 1391 (March 2012 to December 2012, shortened due to changes in the budget

cycle) was adopted after being rejected twice by the Wolesi Jirga. Revisions included reducing the annual repayment schedule for the Kabul Bank from $80 million to $65 million and adding $5 million to the health and education budget lines and the ring road project.

8. Intense local political interest is already focused on the next elections, particularly the presidential poll, constitutionally mandated for 2014. President Karzai recognized the elections in 2014 as an important milestone in his statement at the meeting on Afghanistan on 21 May, part of the 25th North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit in Chicago, and has repeatedly stated that he will not be standing again, in line with a constitutional bar on individuals holding the office for more than two terms. The next presidential elections, therefore, will be the first post-Taliban election in which he is not a candidate. Efforts to strengthen the electoral legal framework include placement of the law on the structure and duties of the Independent Election Commission before the legislative commission of the Wolesi Jirga and revision of the broader electoral law by the Ministry of Justice. On 4 April, the election commissioners met with the President to discuss their proposals for the electoral law. This was followed by a consultative process held at Kabul University on 21 April and an outreach exercise conducted in six provincial capitals. The UNDP technical assistance project, ELECT II (Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow, second phase), has continued to provide capacity-building support to the Commission, with particular attention currently focused on voter registration. A feasibility study mission led by UNDP is under way (2-20 June) to help develop a sustainable mechanism for improving the voter register.

9. The two major opposition coalitions, the National Front of Afghanistan and the National Coalition of Afghanistan, released a joint statement on 30 April calling for the urgent passage of electoral laws, greater United Nations engagement, and the holding of presidential elections in accordance with the constitution. The latter was prompted by the President's comment at a press conference on 12 April that he was considering advancing the elections to 2013, given that the process of transition of security responsibility to full Afghan leadership will be completed in 2014. The Rights and Justice Party, launched in November 2011 and led by a council of prominent politicians and civil society actors, including former Minister of the Interior Hanif Atmar, made similar demands for improvements to the electoral framework and the conduct of polls in a 13-point paper released on 9 May. The National Front has since launched a series of rallies across northern Afghanistan. Coalition leader Zia Masood, as well as General Abdul Rashid Dostum and Haji Mohammad Mohaqqeq, founders of the two main constituent parties, addressed thousands gathered in Jawzjan and Faryab on 9 and 16 May, respectively. Issues raised included Government approaches to the peace process and elections, fears over the speed of transition and the readiness of Government forces and continued calls for devolution of power.

10. My Special Representative, Ján Kubiš, and UNAMA continue to engage actively with Afghan authorities and stakeholders on election issues in support of a fair, transparent and inclusive process, free from internal and external interference. Implementing the UNAMA mandate with regard to elections has been discussed with Government authorities, the Independent Election Commission, representatives of Afghan political parties and civil society, as well as the international community. I also raised the issue of elections with President Karzai during our meeting in the margins of the NATO summit last month.

11. After over a year of negotiations, the strategic partnership agreement between Afghanistan and the United States was signed by the Presidents of the two countries on 1 May. This builds on memorandums of understanding agreed between the two countries on detention (agreed on 9 March) and special operations (agreed on 8 April), providing greater Afghan leadership and oversight in line with transition principles. The agreement, strongly ratified by the Wolesi Jirga on 26 May and the Meshrano Jirga on 3 June, is a powerful signal of a continued commitment across a wide spectrum of issues and has been broadly welcomed by diverse Afghan stakeholders. Sensitive issues on the status and precise nature of an ongoing international military presence remain to be negotiated. Also in May, President Karzai signed partnership agreements on behalf of Afghanistan with Germany and Australia. And on 8 June, Afghanistan and China announced their intention to conclude a strategic and cooperative partnership agreement.

12. At the NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels on 19 April, my Special Representative emphasized that the envisaged international military drawdown should not mean withdrawal of long-term support for Afghan security forces or for Afghanistan's economic and social development plans. He also stressed the need to link the protection of civilians to security funding commitments. He delivered a similar message during his consultations with the European Union on 17 April in Brussels. On 21 May, I attended the meeting on Afghanistan as part of the 25th NATO summit in Chicago with leaders of over 60 countries. Participants reaffirmed the timeline for international troop drawdown and support for Afghan National Security Forces. It is estimated that sustaining the Afghan National Security Forces will cost $4.1 billion annually, and the meeting projected increasing confidence that this could be met, given the significant pledges to date. The United Nations continues to advocate for attention to accountability mechanisms within the Afghan security forces, ensuring the protection of civilians and children amid conflict, as well as the specific needs of women and girls as a central component of transition and post-transition security frameworks. It also advocates that security must not be viewed in isolation from political transition, including the electoral process and peace and reconciliation, nor from economic and social development.

## B. Security developments

13. At a meeting on 10 May, the Joint Afghan-NATO Inteqal Board endorsed the third tranche of the transition, while recognizing that increased challenges were likely as more conflict-prone areas enter the process of transition to full Afghan security responsibility. The third tranche was launched by President Karzai on 13 May, with all provincial capitals now part of the process. With the inclusion of the remaining districts in Kapisa, Parwan and Uruzgan, 11 provinces have entered the phased handover of security responsibilities in their entirety and 75 per cent of the population now lives in areas undergoing transition. The two initial rounds of transition are seen to have generally progressed as planned. There has been no significant deterioration of public order, nor a marked difference in seasonal security trends in areas undergoing transition.

14. The United Nations continued to monitor security-related events relevant to the work, mobility and safety of civilian actors, particularly those events that affect the delivery of activities and programmes mandated by the United Nations. Markedly fewer security incidents were reported in the period from 1 February to

30 April 2012 than over the same time frame in 2011. The figures were more comparable to 2010. In April, 1,412 security incidents were recorded, a 28 per cent decrease compared with April 2011 (1,969 incidents); in March, 1,099 incidents were recorded, compared with 1,964 in March 2011; and in February, 1,032 incidents were recorded, down from 1,394 in February 2011. This decrease in incidents is assessed as the result of a number of factors, including poor weather conditions, successful efforts by Afghan and international forces, such as increased arrests and cache finds, the more political posture adopted by some Taliban leaders and the uncertainty of fighters over reports of peace talks and the upcoming international military drawdown.

15. The southern, south-eastern and eastern provinces accounted for over 70 per cent of incidents, of which armed clashes and improvised explosive devices were responsible for the majority. Suicide attacks were fewer than in the previous year, in part due to Afghan and international security operations, leading to a number of seizures of suicide devices and explosives. Four suicide attacks were recorded in February and 5 in March, compared with 9 and 13, respectively, in the same months in 2011. This increased to 14 in April, although that was still a reduction on the 17 recorded in April 2011. April 2012 did, however, mark the first series of attacks launched in the space of one month throughout the entire country except in the central highlands. In May 2012, 10 suicide attacks were reported, compared with 15 in May 2011. Suicide attacks are increasingly being used where insurgents, unlikely to survive, lay siege to high-profile targets, armed with light and heavy weaponry.

16. This was the case on 15 April in large-scale insurgent attacks, coordinated across four provinces: Kabul, Logar, Paktya and Nangarhar. Targets included the National Assembly, Afghan security forces installations and Government buildings, with several international embassies directly affected. According to the Afghan authorities, 4 civilians were killed and 32 wounded, 11 Afghan service personnel were killed and 42 injured, while 36 insurgents died and one was arrested. Afghan security forces are considered increasingly effective in responding to such incidents. On 2 May, the Taliban announced the start of their spring offensive, named Al Farooq. The statement urged fighters to avoid civilian casualties as a "top priority", although it then listed targets, including high-ranking Government officials and members of the National Assembly and the High Peace Council, considered non-combatants under international law. In the early hours of 2 May, a suicide car bomb exploded outside an international residential compound in Kabul, for which the Taliban claimed responsibility. Eight civilians were killed, including women and children, with another 11 injured. On 6 June, 26 civilians were killed and 67 others injured during insurgent attacks at civilian locations in Kandahar, Faryab, Balkh and Paktika Provinces.

17. The campaign of intimidation has been relentless, with targeted assassinations of influential political and religious leaders. As in the assassination of Mawlawi Rahmani, the identity of the perpetrators often remains unclear amid power rivalries on all sides. Over half of such incidents occurred in the southern provinces, the majority in Kandahar, including the attack against the Governor on 28 April, which was thwarted when two militants who breached the compound security were killed in a shoot-out. On 17 May, four attackers targeted the Governor's compound in Farah, but similarly failed in their objective.

18. Afghan security forces, particularly the Afghan National Police, are also the object of targeted campaigns. The Afghan national police were targeted in almost 70 per cent of all incidents against security forces, accounting for some 875 casualties, or 70 per cent of the total casualties in the security forces, and for the largest number of targeted assassinations.

19. Implementation of the surge target strength of 157,000 national police and 195,000 in the Afghan National Army by the end of 2012 is ahead of schedule, with an estimated 149,600 police and 194,500 army personnel in place as of mid-May. In the run-up to the NATO summit in Chicago, a conceptual model for the Afghan security forces after 2014 was endorsed at a meeting of the Security Standing Committee of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board on 7 April. This foresees a target of 228,500 police and army personnel by the end of 2017. It is expected that further development of this conceptual framework will take into account evolving security conditions and requirements.

20. Along with numbers, the orientation of the different security services has been the subject of vigorous debate, in particular the need for a distinct civilian role for the police, with a further professionalization of the force, strengthened oversight mechanisms and institutional reforms at the Ministry of the Interior. In April, the Ministry launched a national police plan, with priorities including community-based policing, strengthening crime detection and prevention, safeguarding human rights and combating violence against women and children. The plan outlined an ambitious goal of inducting 5,000 women into the police service by 2014, up from the current figure of 1,370. On 10 April, the Minister of the Interior also launched the Police-e-Mardumi (Democratic Policing) secretariat to coordinate community policing initiatives and liaise with civil society to increase police accountability and responsiveness. UNAMA continues to advocate strongly for these efforts, including in its role as co-chair of the Security Standing Committee of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board.

21. The Afghan local police have continued to expand, with over 13,000 personnel at 65 validated sites by mid-May. These local forces are supposed to focus on defence and have contributed to stability in a number of areas. Strong concerns remain over issues of impunity, vetting, command and control and the potential re-emergence of ethnically or politically biased militias. UNAMA continues to engage with the Ministry of the Interior and the United States military on these issues and on specific allegations of human rights abuses. Several serious incidents apparently involving local police personnel were recorded. In Paktya, a United States soldier was reported killed by a member of the local police on 26 March, nine local police personnel were murdered by a colleague in a similar incident on 30 March and several members of the local police were arrested in April, allegedly in possession of suicide vests. In Uruzgan on 7 March, there was also a reported fratricidal killing within the local police and on 31 March, 11 local police personnel are understood to have joined the insurgency with significant quantities of equipment and weaponry.

22. More broadly, across all security forces, reports of personnel or individuals in uniform, killing colleagues and international counterparts are starting to constitute a worrying trend. This includes the killing of two British troops on 12 May by a local police officer in Helmand and the killing on 26 March of another two British soldiers by an Afghan national army officer, also in Helmand.

23. Private security companies, except those guarding the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) or diplomatic facilities, were supposed to transfer responsibilities to the new Afghan Public Protection Force, under the control of the Ministry of the Interior, on 21 March. As this date neared, there was a switch to rolling implementation, to be completed by 21 June. This has proceeded relatively smoothly, although some private companies and development agencies facing the loss of private security have preferred to close. A number of risk management companies have been created to manage the interface between clients and the new force.

## C. Regional cooperation

24. Political dialogue and cooperation between Afghanistan and regional countries has continued to progress, building on the process launched at the Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan: Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia in November 2011. The second senior official meeting was hosted by Turkmenistan in Ashgabat on 18 April. Fourteen participant countries and a UNAMA delegation reviewed practical steps to implement seven prioritized confidence-building measures. On 26 May, a de facto core group of ambassadors based in Kabul met to discuss preparations ahead of the follow-up to the ministerial conference to be held in Kabul on 14 June. It is envisaged that relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes will engage in the confidence-building measures.

25. The fifth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan in Dushanbe on 26 and 27 March focused on prioritizing regional needs. Participants committed to "serious and measurable steps" towards implementation of 17 projects to be presented for funding at the international conference on Afghanistan to be held in Tokyo in July.

26. On 30 March, the fifth vice-ministerial consultations on regional security of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization were held in Beijing. Afghanistan was a focus of discussion with in-depth exchanges on the regional security situation. It was unanimously noted that all regional countries need to enhance cooperation to maintain regional security, stability and development. On 7 June, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization announced its decision to grant observer status to Afghanistan.

27. The sixth meeting of a core group of senior officials from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States was held on 27 April in Islamabad. Two working groups were established to facilitate peace efforts: one, at the level of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations, will cooperate on the role of the Security Council; the other will work on potential safe passage for senior Taliban members willing to engage in talks with the Government of Afghanistan.

28. My Special Representative has continued to focus on regional outreach with official visits to India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. He met the Presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tajikistan in the margins of the fifth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan and attended the Ministerial Conference of the Central Asia Border Security Initiative in Vienna on 16 and 17 April, which focused on border security in the fight against trafficking, organized crime and irregular migration. On 14 May, he also held discussions with the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and

Security of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In all meetings, the importance of regional cooperation to enhance stability in Afghanistan was underlined, with repeated references to the threat posed by the illicit narcotics cultivated in Afghanistan.

29. In seeking concrete solutions, the counter-narcotics Re[illegible]onal Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), held its first steering committee meeting in Vienna on 14 March. Representatives of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan endorsed priority actions, including targeted cross-border operations and the strengthening of operational networks between their law enforcement and judicial institutions. The Regional Programme also supported the first tripartite ministerial meeting on 1 June of the new subregional cooperation framework between Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in Dushanbe, which replicates collaboration on the Triangular Initiative between Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

## III. Human rights

30. Between 1 February and 30 April, UNAMA documented 1,322 civilian casualties (396 killed and 926 injured), a decrease from the 1,797 casualties (678 killed and 1,119 injured) recorded over the same period in 2011. Anti-Government elements continued to be responsible for the majority of civilian casualties, which numbered 1,029 (78 per cent). Pro-Government forces bore responsibility for 136 (10 per cent) of recorded incidents. In 157 (12 per cent) cases, responsibility could not be assigned. Overall civilian casualties caused by anti-Government elements decreased by 7 per cent, with 286 civilian deaths and 743 civilian injuries, as compared with 395 civilian deaths and 706 injuries during the same period in 2011. Pro-Government forces bore responsibility for 66 civilian deaths and 70 civilian injuries, a drop of 70 per cent, as compared with the 209 civilian deaths and 252 injuries over the same period in 2011.

31. While overall civilian casualties decreased, some tactics, including those specifically targeting civilians, increased, in particular the use of improvised explosive devices by anti-Government elements. Between 1 February and 30 April, UNAMA documented 417 civilian casualties (122 deaths and 295 injuries) caused by these devices, an increase of 6 per cent compared with the same period in 2011 when there were 392 civilian casualties (130 deaths and 262 injuries). The second leading cause of civilian deaths and injuries was targeted killing of non-combatants perceived by anti-Government elements to be supporting the Government or international military forces. UNAMA documented 91 deaths and 30 injuries as a result of targeted attacks, an increase of 63 per cent over the same period in 2011 when there were 74 civilian casualties (58 deaths and 16 injured).

32. Although the operations of pro-Government forces caused fewer civilian casualties, civilian deaths resulting from air strikes continued to raise concern. In one such incident on 6 June, 18 civilians, including 9 children, died in an air strike in Logar province when an international military helicopter fired on a civilian residence where anti-Government elements had taken cover. Separately, on 23 March, a United States service member was charged with 17 counts of murder by

a United States court over a mass shooting of civilians, mostly women and children, in two hamlets in Kandahar earlier in the month. With the security transition and Afghan forces increasingly taking the lead, there is a need for local security institutions, with international support, to institutionalize the protection of civilians and accountability mechanisms in their operations through initiatives such as the establishment of a civilian casualties mitigation centre.

33. The prison population of Afghanistan continues to grow significantly, placing pressure on facilities and staff. There have been concerns over the transfer in January of the Central Prison Directorate from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of the Interior, particularly as provincial prison directors have been seen to be reporting to local police chiefs. In March, the Minister of the Interior issued an internal order reiterating the operational independence of the division. In the reporting period, UNAMA provided human rights training to the National Directorate of Security and police personnel in 16 provinces. It also continued a detention observation programme with visits to over 80 facilities managed by the National Directorate of Security, the police and the Central Prison Directorate to reassess the treatment of conflict-related detainees. On 19 March, ISAF announced that it had recertified 13 Afghan detention facilities and resumed transfers after remedial action by the authorities to prevent mistreatment. Transfers to 16 facilities were halted following a report released by UNAMA in October 2011 entitled "Treatment of conflict-related detainees in Afghan custody".

34. On 26 March, Afghanistan submitted its annual progress report to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on the implementation of the action plan on the prevention of underage recruitment and its annexes on sexual violence and the killing and maiming of children. While the Government has made progress in preventing child recruitment and other grave violations, anti-Government elements continue to use children. A decrease was noted in reported incidents of abduction, sexual violence and denial of humanitarian access. On the other hand, a targeted and growing campaign by anti-Government elements against educational institutions increasingly raises concern. On 7 May, in Nangarhar Province, anti-Government elements set fire to a secondary school for girls. On 1 and 8 May, insurgents attacked the convoy of the head of the Paktika Department of Education. The second attack left five civilians dead and seven injured. Recently, insurgent intim ation forced more than 20 schools in Ghazni province to close.

35. UNAMA continues to observe growing concerns related to the promotion and protection of women's rights. Incidents of violence against women remain endemic and women continue to face challenges to the full enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights. UNAMA observed incidents where judicial officials treated running away from home as a crime, insinuating the intention of committing adultery, despite the absence of such an offence in the criminal code. President Karzai's reiteration, at an International Women's Day event on 11 March, of the Government's commitment to promoting constitutional guarantees of gender equality and fundamental freedoms was particularly welcomed. A decree issued for the occasion pardoned a number of female prisoners who had run away from home. Fortifying its commitment to the principles of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, the Government has strengthened dialogue at the country level, through technical working groups and multisectoral consultations,

supported by the United Nations and international partners, which is expected to result in the development of an action plan to implement the resolution.

36. The United Nations held consultations with the Women's Commission of the Wolesi Jirga and civil society on the law on the elimination of violence against women and continued to work with the Ministry of Women's Affairs to establish commissions on the elimination of violence against women at the central and local levels, in accordance with the law.

## IV. Implementation of the Kabul process and aid coherence

37. Much of the focus of the international community and the Government has been on substantive engagement in preparing the international conference on Afghanistan to be held in Tokyo on 8 July. The conference should concretize Kabul process commitments, political statements and pledges of support articulated at the December 2011 conference in Bonn and reaffirm the partnership between the international community and Afghanistan beyond transition and through the transformation decade (2015-2024). The Tokyo conference is intended to engage on long-term and predictable international economic, development and governance assistance, as well as regional economic cooperation. Mutual accountability will be emphasized, including agreement on a follow-up mechanism to enable periodic review of long-term commitments by Afghans and donors as a prerequisite for cooperation and support.

38. The Government of Afghanistan has prepared a paper entitled "Supporting self-reliance in Afghanistan" and the World Bank has prepared a second paper on transition economics, which together will present the economic strategy for Afghanistan to attain greater self-reliance through 2024. The Government intends to seek endorsement of its paper at a meeting of the Joint Coordination Monitoring Board prior to the Tokyo conference.

39. On 29 May, 16 civil society umbrella organizations held a conference in Kabul to discuss the position to be taken by civil society at the conference in Tokyo. Delegates from all 34 provinces discussed conditions for sustainable development, the strengthening of women's rights and access to justice, and the participation of civil society in the development process during transition. Thirty delegates were elected to participate in a side event the day before the conference and two delegates will address the main gathering. These activities are facilitated by a civil society joint working group.

40. Meanwhile, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Japanese authorities are preparing a parallel event on 7 July focused on the national reintegration strategy for Afghanistan, the Afghan component of the regional solutions strategy for Afghan refugees. The community-based approach, being piloted in 48 high-return sites, will be a model for future sustainable reintegration and development activities.

41. United Nations coherence in Afghanistan was the focus of a meeting between the heads of United Nations agencies in the country and the Government of Afghanistan, chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Zalmay Rassoul, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 6 May. This was the first such meeting between the Government and representatives of all 27 United Nations agencies, funds and

programmes to discuss this partnership. My Special Representative emphasized the commitment of the Organization to supporting national priorities, as the Afghan authorities take greater ownership of the security, governance and development agendas. It was agreed that this meeting would be regularly convened as a forum for ongoing dialogue.

## V. Governance and rule of law

42. Drawing upon benchmarks previously identified at the conferences in Kabul and London, a series of governance indicators drawn up prior to the conference in Tokyo focus on concrete steps fundamental to the delivery of national priority programmes. The 17 indicators focus on challenges related to local representation, anti-corruption, economic governance, justice, budget planning and execution and capacity-building. The international community and the Government, with UNAMA facilitation, are discussing how best to support the realization of these vital reforms. Adoption of International Monetary Fund benchmarks related to the Kabul Bank also remains a key donor requirement.

43. During the meeting on 13 May of the International Community Transparency and Accountability Working Group, the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee reported that 40 per cent of its accountability- and transparency-related benchmarks had been implemented and important progress had been made on an additional 40 per cent. While the report demonstrated the potential of the Committee to deliver results, success will be conditioned on the strong political will needed to tackle impunity. On 3 June, the Nomination Committee recommended Eva Joly of France and Hasan Chowdhury of Bangladesh as replacements for the two international members of the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee who had resigned. The President's Office is reviewing the proposal.

44. Taking into account the concerns of the international community, revision of the national priority programme on law and justice has continued, focusing on management structures and access to justice. UNAMA will be working closely with stakeholders to develop a strategy to enhance cooperation between the police and the justice sector, in particular the Office of the Attorney-General.

45. The draft criminal procedure code, identified as a legislative priority at the Kabul conference, has now been submitted to the National Assembly. Revision and consolidation of the penal code was launched in April. The need for review has been strongly advocated for at least two years, with a number of amendments required to comply with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

## VI. Development and humanitarian assistance

46. Following a harsh winter, flash floods usually seen between March and June began in February, with 173 incidents recorded in 126 districts over a three-month period. The human impact has been severe, with an estimated 206 killed, 82 injured, more than 110,000 displaced, and 12,500 homes destroyed or damaged. Even more damaging to the affected communities is the impact on infrastructure and economic activity. Humanitarian response, within the framework of the National Disaster Management Committee, has focused on 20 provinces assessed to be at greatest risk.

Meanwhile, response to the 2011 slow-onset drought is ongoing and will continue until the September wheat harvest.

47. According to pre-crop assessments, harvests are expected to be normal in most parts of Afghanistan. Rural communities in affected areas may, however, face food insecurity given assets depleted by drought, the harsh winter and spring floods. In April, the World Food Programme completed its first food-for-assets strategy in Afghanistan, with a focus on disaster risk reduction. The key objective is to respond to emergencies not only to meet immediate needs, but also to restore livelihoods, improve productive assets and strengthen community resilience.

48. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, visited Afghanistan from 8 to 11 May. She met with a variety of Afghan interlocutors in Kabul and Balkh, including those displaced as a result of conflict and natural disasters. She was struck by the extensive humanitarian needs and stressed humanitarian access and impartial delivery as an obligation amid conflict, both now and in an increasingly uncertain future. Only 25 per cent of the $437 million sought in the Consolidated Appeals Process for 2012 is funded approaching the mid-year, a sharp reduction from May 2011, which saw 52 per cent of the $679 million sought in the Consolidated Appeals Process funded. No financing for emergency response funding has been received to date.

49. On 2 and 3 May, a conference on the Afghan displacement situation (the International Conference on the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries) was held in Geneva, co-hosted by the Government of Switzerland and UNHCR with delegates from some 47 countries. This officially launched an integrated framework for multilateral cooperation and coordination agreed between the Governments of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and UNHCR. The strategy, which had received presidential endorsement in February and support from First Vice-President Mohammad Fahim and key line ministers in March, focuses on three pillars for coordinated engagement: (a) support for voluntary repatriation, (b) sustainable reintegration and (c) assistance to host countries, and must be underpinned by a commitment to sustained and tangible support by the international community. The joint communiqué from the conference recognized the importance of bridging the gap between humanitarian assistance and sustainable development.

50. Conflict-induced internal displacement continued to increase, with more than 87,000 Afghans displaced during the first four months of 2012. This represents a 17 per cent increase over the equivalent period in 2011 and a 60 per cent increase on 2010. As of 30 April, the number of internally displaced persons in Afghanistan was estimated at over 408,000. UNCHR and the Afghan authorities are undertaking a displacement profiling and data-cleaning exercise to improve the accuracy of reporting and programme response.

51. On 29 March in Kabul, the Minister of Refugees and Repatriation and the Director General of the International Organization for Migration signed a memorandum establishing a framework of cooperation to enhance the capacity of the Ministry. This includes a focus on the rights of migrants and the provision of services and assistance to returnees, internally displaced persons and vulnerable groups.

52. Following the successful capacity-building of Afghan staff, coordination of mine action has been transitioned to an all-Afghan process with the departure in April of the last international technical advisors to the Mine Action Coordination Centre. A small United Nations mine action service office remains to monitor and evaluate donor funding and to support the Centre, if requested. In March, the Government submitted a request to the States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction to extend its 2013 deadline, 10 years after acceding to the Convention, for removal of all anti-personnel mines from its territory. The request also included a workplan to ensure Afghanistan is mine-free by 2023. The delay is due to funding issues, insecurity, reporting of previously unknown minefields and a lack of maps and documentation of mined areas. Over 1 million Afghans still live within 500 metres of areas contaminated by landmines, with nearly 6,000 such sites in 33 provinces and only Daikundi province free of landmines.

## VII. Counter-narcotics

53. The UNODC Opium Risk Assessment 2012, released in April, predicts a rise in opium cultivation in Afghanistan in 2012. Increases are expected in nine provinces largely in the west and east of the country: Ghor, Herat, Kapisa, Badghis, Farah, Kunar, Nangarhar, Uruzgan and Badakhshan. Fifteen provinces, mainly in the centre, north and south-east are likely to retain poppy-free status. Ghor was poppy-free in 2011, but continuation will depend on eradication efforts. The two southern provinces of Kandahar and Helmand still account for the majority of cultivation, although a reduction is expected in Kandahar, with 27,213 hectares of cultivated poppy in 2011; no major change is foreseen in Helmand, where last year 63,307 hectares, nearly half the countrywide total, were grown.

54. Final production figures will depend on eradication efforts, with Governor-led operations continuing since March in many provinces. Preliminary data shows that over 10,000 hectares of poppy have been eradicated, an increase of 165 per cent over the same period in 2011. Final assessments will be made using satellite imagery and aerial data.

55. Between 28 and 30 May, UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov visited Afghanistan, launching the UNODC Afghanistan country programme for 2012-2014 with the Ministry of Counter Narcotics. With an estimated budget of $117 million, the programme aims to contribute to stability and development through strengthening criminal justice systems and Government counter-narcotics efforts. Four subprogrammes focus on research, policy and advocacy; law enforcement; criminal justice; and health and livelihoods. UNODC is focusing on a counter-narcotics monitoring mechanism across national priority programmes to ensure that the issue is mainstreamed across Government sectors, not only security and agriculture, but also health and education. Terms of reference have been agreed and will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board.

# VIII. Mission support

56. Given the requirements of transition, UNAMA is currently reviewing its activities and posture to optimize resources and increasingly focus its activities on priority core mandate areas, while striving to continue to deliver on the mandate with sufficient geographic coverage, given the substantial reductions to its 2013 budget required by Headquarters to meet the overall funding levels approved by the General Assembly for the 2012-2013 biennium. This process also seeks to build upon the recommendations and discussions between the United Nations, the Government of Afghanistan and Member States during the 2011 comprehensive review process, included in my report issued in March 2012 (A/66/728-S/2012/133).

57. As of January 2013, eight UNAMA provincial offices will close and their activities will be conducted to the extent possible from regional bases. This decision was preceded by consultations with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on the future United Nations presence in Afghanistan. As a result, by 30 June, the current UNAMA premises in Zabul and Ghor will be transferred to the Government and the United Nations Office for Project Services, respectively. Premises in Badghis and Nimroz will be closed. Discussions with partners on final arrangements for the other four offices in Daikundi, Uruzgan, Takhar and Sari Pul are continuing and will be finalized by year end. The office closures will lead to considerable savings, but further savings will need to be identified to meet projected reductions.

58. UNAMA has continued its efforts to complete previously planned investments in its core infrastructure to ensure that United Nations operational standards are maintained for staff security and safety. Construction work on the regional offices in Balkh and Bamyan is expected to be complete by the autumn and the upgraded office in Jawzjan was reopened on 1 April. Initial steps are currently under way to gradually and temporarily redeploy international staff to the Kunduz office following the attack in February on the premises, with the aim of moving later to another suitable location.

59. There will also be a reduction in personnel, which my Special Representative plans to conduct in a strategic manner, considering the required posture and profile of staffing. Recruitment and retention in a difficult duty station remains challenging, particularly for substantive staff.

# IX. Observations

60. There is room for some cautious optimism, given developments in the security transition, human development, civil society and Afghan institutional frameworks. Serious challenges must not, however, be underplayed, with the military drawdown and an expected reduction in development assistance giving rise to uncertainty about the sustainability of such gains. Significant economic impacts, job losses and perhaps even greater humanitarian needs, at least in the short and medium terms, can be foreseen in a country with some of the lowest human development indicators in the world. Challenges to stability remain manifold, with insurgency, impunity, corruption, criminality and increasing narcotics production and trafficking. Transition can be an opportunity for realignment and prioritization of efforts, but may also be unsettling. It may reinvigorate the destabilizing tendencies that had brought devastation to the country in the past, particularly if coupled with ethnic

divisions. It is therefore a priority to build national political consensus together with predictability and confidence in mutual commitments and long-term international engagement and support.

61. The 2012 NATO summit held in Chicago backed a timeline for the international military drawdown, with ongoing support for the lead role of Afghan institutions in securing the population. It also confirmed that the NATO-ISAF mission would evolve from a combat to a training and assistance mission. An increasing number of strategic partnership agreements reinforce the strategy with bilateral commitments. Protection of civilians and accountability of security services must be central to planning, both as international obligations and, within Afghanistan, as critical to enhancing Government legitimacy. More broadly, there is a pressing need for long-term governance and development assistance frameworks. In addition to the ministerial meeting held in Kabul in June and the strengthening of coherence in regional cooperation efforts, I look forward to the international conference to be held in Tokyo in July and to discussions on socioeconomic commitments well beyond 2014.

62. The decrease in security incidents and civilian casualties in the period from 1 February to 30 April is welcome. However, 44 civilians, including 10 children, were killed and 69 civilians were injured on 6 June. The suicide attacks, improvised explosive devices and airstrikes in Faryab, Kandahar, Paktika and Logar produced the deadliest single day in terms of civilian deaths up to that point in 2012.

63. I reiterate my call for anti-Government elements to halt, in particular, the use of inhumane and indiscriminate personnel-activated improvised explosive devices. Further, I am dismayed at the rise in targeted killings of civilians and an ongoing campaign of violence directed at schools and educators. Such acts disregard the obligation to protect civilians, especially children, and civilian institutions and constitute a violation of international humanitarian and human rights law.

64. UNAMA has also expressed concern that aerial operations have resulted in more civilian deaths and injuries than any other tactic used by pro-Government forces since the current armed conflict began. I noted at the NATO summit held in May that greater efforts were needed to protect civilians, and I note with appreciation that the Government and ISAF continue to review procedures with the aim of preventing civilian casualties more effectively, including during air operations.

65. The Government, with international support, should continue its efforts to reinforce legitimacy and emphasize sustainable security gains, including by supporting the establishment of a robust legal framework on issues of detention and a legal regime for administrative detention or internment, together with clarity on the legal framework regulating the conduct of special operations, interrogations and detentions by Afghan forces. Local security initiatives require careful oversight and vetting, and I commend efforts to orient police in respect of their proper law enforcement functions.

66. The evolution of a peace process was always expected to be slow and uneven. Engagement and confidence-building among all parties must be pursued despite setbacks. I welcome the appointment of Salahuddin Rabbani as Chair of the High Peace Council and support his emphasis on a broad-based and inclusive peace process at the central and local levels. Women must have a more prominent voice,

role and place in peace and reconciliation efforts, as well as have actual influence in shaping the outcomes of those efforts. UNAMA stands ready to support and facilitate constructive and inclusive intra-Afghan political dialogue, if requested.

67. Regionally, I am encouraged by positive momentum on a broad range of bilateral and multilateral initiatives to engender confidence and build stability and economic prosperity. I welcome progress on the Istanbul Process and the efforts to establish and prioritize concrete actions that can build trust and have a tangible impact on the lives and prosperity of the people. I note the leadership of the Government of Afghanistan on substantive preparations for the ministerial meeting held in Kabul. The United Nations and my Special Representative will continue to participate and provide support where necessary. Prioritization by the fifth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan of 17 projects is a constructive development and should receive due attention at the conference to be held in Tokyo.

68. Much attention is already focused on the role of the next round of elections to facilitate a peaceful political transition. Afghan authorities and the Afghan people have the lead role, both in implementing electoral processes and in determining the electoral framework, which will require buy-in across the political spectrum. I welcome the consultation exercise of the Independent Election Commission and hope consensus can be built through the passage of new legislation. The United Nations will be an active partner in building local technical capacity and sustainable systems, coordinating international assistance and providing advice based on its wide international experience. Vigorous debate on issues vital to the future of Afghanistan is expected and welcomed in order to help voters exercise an informed political choice.

69. Transition offers the chance for significant realignments, bringing civilian agencies increasingly to the fore. However, this must be subject to careful planning and preparation. Provincial reconstruction teams, for example, have provided significant logistical and financial assistance at the subnational level. Their evolution must not mean the evaporation of funding and assistance for local government, but rather the continuity of support for sustainable Afghan systems of governance. The financial impact of the large-scale departure of international forces may make the illicit economy, notably that based on narcotics, even more attractive to those with large patronage systems to sustain. Political will in tackling an issue so corrosive to the body politic of the nation is needed not only by local authorities but also by the international community.

70. Effective mutual accountability is essential to long-term support. Donors must refrain from unrealistic demands and recognize ongoing institutional capacity constraints. Nevertheless, genuine attempts must be made to tackle the criminality and pervasive corruption that risk distorting Government institutions and frameworks, if donors are to remain committed. The Monitoring and Evaluation Commission is at a critical juncture, requiring national and international support and attention.

71. Informal discussions are emerging on the future role of the United Nations in Afghanistan. While the United Nations will support Afghanistan to the maximum of its ability, meeting all anticipated needs will be difficult. There must be recognition of the Organization's unique role and areas of expertise and experience. Broad consensus is needed on an overarching framework for international support to

Afghanistan and on the United Nation's role within this, balanced by budgetary constraints.

72. The conference to be held in Tokyo must deliver a clear message that Afghanistan will not be abandoned in its development and social needs. Tangible commitments are required regarding long-term support to Afghanistan, its self-reliance strategy and its national priority programmes, as the country strives for fiscal and economic sustainability beyond 2014. Preparations have focused attention on effective, accountable and sustainable governance. The United Nations is facilitating the convening of a major civil society event at the conference, and I emphasize the importance of hearing the diverse voices of Afghan men and women and of including issues related to women and national gender equality at the Conference. A vibrant civil society has been one of the great signs of progress in the past decade. It is essential to be mindful of the heavy cost previously paid for a lack of sustained support to Afghanistan. Abrupt reductions in assistance put achievements at risk and may also translate into greater humanitarian needs. Predictability and broad participation are crucial to effective planning and confidence in the future.

73. I would like to thank my Special Representative, Ján Kubiš, his two Deputies, as well as all the UNAMA and United Nations personnel in Afghanistan, both national and international, for their commitment and dedication under very challenging conditions.

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# Identical letters dated 20 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit herewith the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding paragraphs 2 to 6 of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period 1 January to 30 June 2012 (S/2012/403).

— Security is the principal and fundamental concern underlying all of the correspondence between the leadership of UNDOF and the truce delegation during the period under consideration. The situation required a rapid response on the part of the Syrian side, as well as better policing of the area of separation in order to ensure a calm environment for everyone located in the area, including UNDOF. Such measures are incumbent on the Syrian side under the Agreement on Disengagement and under paragraph 12 of the chairman's statement as agreed by the parties on 5 June 1974.

— Paragraph 4 of the report states that 230 armed Syrian security personnel or soldiers of the armed forces entered the area of separation. That number is incorrect. On that date, the concerned parties received intelligence regarding the presence of armed saboteurs, rather than "anti-Government protesters" as stated in the report. One piece of evidence is that armed masked men prevented the inspection team from fulfilling its functions on 7 May 2012 in area F. Police and law enforcement forces were therefore sent in order to cleanse the area of terrorists. The leadership of UNDOF was contacted through the liaison officer, Major Abdussalam al-Khawarzati. It was informed that saboteurs were present, and permission was requested for local police and law enforcement officers to enter the area of separation through points 30-32. The counter-terrorism battalion provided the personnel with helmets and bullet-proof equipment, which they did not have, as well as personal weapons. That information can be verified from the pictures taken by United Nations forces. On 3 March 2012, UNDOF command was informed that some of the vehicles used were non-military vehicles belonging to the civil defence agency under the Ministry of Local Government, which are used for civilian purposes and in emergencies. United Nations forces did not prevent local police and law enforcement officers from entering the area of separation; the leadership of UNDOF had itself agreed to their entry by letter DOF/FC/050/12 of 6 March 2012.



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— Paragraph 2 incorrectly states that the Syrian authorities prevented UNDOF from inspecting or entering Shaqra, Harra, Jaseem, Kanakir, Namir, Nawa and Tasil. What happened was the very opposite: the Syrian authorities have continued to attempt to facilitate the work of UNDOF and allow the liaison officer of the truce delegation office to travel wherever necessary, except for certain rare cases in some regions where the security situation is inadequate or subject to occasional tension. Most of the inspection teams fulfilled their functions without being prevented from doing so, except for some long-standing routine objections from both sides. That much can be ascertained from the results of the inspection, which have reached the Syrian side and the United Nations.

— Contrasting accounts have been given regarding the gunfire incident of 5 March 2012 mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General. The most plausible is that no shots were fired, as no tangible evidence was provided to the Syrian delegation on the truce committee, except for the idea that a laser beam was involved, rather than a tracer as mentioned by some members of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization.

— The report states that gunshots were fired at United Nations observers on 12 March 2012. The information in the possession of the Syrian side is that the shots came from inside Jordanian territory. That information was confirmed by UNDOF by letter 12/B/1074 of 14 March 2012 addressed to the truce delegation, and is borne out by the local coordinates that were sent to the Syrian side.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-seventh year**

## Identical letters dated 20 June 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to you in follow-up to our previous letters regarding Israel's illegal settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the accompanying insidious campaign of Israeli settler terror against the Palestinian people. I regret to inform you of continuing illegal measures by Israel, the occupying Power, aimed at the further expropriation of Palestinian land, destruction of Palestinian homes and properties, and the intimidation and displacement of the Palestinian civilian population.

In this regard, acts of aggression and provocation by extremist Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and properties, including homes, agricultural orchards, mosques, churches and cemeteries, continue unabated. Yesterday, yet another mosque in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was attacked by Israeli settlers. Villagers in Jaba awoke to find their mosque ablaze and the desecration of its walls with graffiti declaring "Ulpana War", "The war has begun" and "Pay the price", clearly indicating in this vile act the hand of settlers, who have repeatedly destroyed Palestinian civilian properties. Many similar violent and destructive actions have been committed as deliberate retribution, or so-called "price-tag" attacks, against the Palestinian civilian population in response to Israeli measures regarding illegal settlement outposts.

The impunity of the extremist settlers is no doubt bolstered by the Israeli Government's failure and unwillingness to hold them accountable for the constant terror they are wreaking. We reiterate that Israel, the occupying Power, is responsible for all of the crimes committed by the settlers it has transferred to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international humanitarian law. We call for immediate action by the occupying Power to hold the perpetrators accountable and to act to avert the continuation of such criminal, provocative attacks, which are aggravating tensions and religious sensitivities between the two sides and risk further destabilizing the situation on the ground.



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The situation also continues to be exacerbated by the continuation of demolition of Palestinian homes and properties throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, by Israel, the occupying Power. These actions, which constitute grave violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention and human rights law and which are causing severe hardship for hundreds more Palestinian families, are also heightening already-high frustrations and mistrust. We express our total condemnation of these illegal measures and draw the international community's attention to this matter of grave concern, with an appeal for urgent, collective action aimed at compelling Israel to end such unlawful, destructive policies and practices.

This week alone, the Israeli occupying forces handed down demolition and confiscation orders against nearly 100 Palestinian properties. On 12 June, a mass demolition order was issued against the entire village of Susiya in the southern West Bank for the destruction of all 50 buildings in the village, including homes, tents, a kindergarten, a health clinic and the village's renewable energy system. If carried out, this demolition would result in the forced displacement of the village's 350 Palestinians, including 120 children. The occupying Power is using the pretext of protecting the adjacent illegal settlement as the basis for carrying out this unlawful, immoral action, while in reality it is the Palestinian civilian population that is in dire need of protection from the extremist settlers, who continue to attack the village, which at the same time is being encroached upon by the illegal settlements and outposts in Masafer Yatta near Al-Khalil.

The occupying Power also recently issued orders for the confiscation of land in the town of Al-Khader south of Bethlehem. If the land is seized, it will not only negatively affect the rightful Palestinian owners, but will also affect farmers, who will not be able to reach their property located in the same area. Also, in the Bethlehem area, on 18 June, occupying forces demolished several domestic tents and sheds in the town of Al-Ubeidiya. This was preceded by yet another demolition in Occupied East Jerusalem, where the occupying forces demolished a 700 square metre complex of sheep barns, which were the only source of income for five families, in addition to destroying 20 tons of barley. Also, in Occupied East Jerusalem, Israel continues its illegal, provocative measures in the Silwan neighbourhood, where approval was given on 18 June for the construction of a 9,000 square metre tourist centre in Silwan, putting the neighbourhood at risk for further confiscation of land and the further marginalization and suffocation of its Palestinian residents. Furthermore, on 18 June, the occupying forces issued 35 demolition orders to Palestinians in the village of Beit Ummar, which is located near to the illegal Israeli settlement of "Karmi Zur", which continues to encroach upon the village's lands, and issued demolition orders against four residential tents and a solar and wind power system in the southern village of Tuba.

It is abundantly clear that all of these illegal measures are part and parcel of Israel's schemes aimed at seizing more Palestinian land, displacing the Palestinian civilian population and establishing more facts on the ground in order to entrench its control and de facto annexation of that land, thereby prejudicing the outcome of any negotiation for a final peace settlement. As we have cautioned on numerous prior occasions, we reiterate that all such illegal colonization measures by Israel are seriously damaging the viability of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, making its physical attainability more and more impossible and undermining any attempts to resuscitate the political process to achieve that solution.

The international community, including the Security Council, has a direct responsibility, in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, to act to bring an end to the ongoing Israeli violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Serious, collective efforts are urgently needed in order to bring an end to the ongoing hardships and dispossession being endured by the Palestinian people under Israel's occupation, and to salvage the two-State solution as the core of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement that brings an end to the Israeli occupation since 1967 and ensures the realization of the rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In closing, in follow-up to my letter of 18 June 2012, I regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, also continues its military attacks against the Gaza Strip, causing more death and injury to Palestinian civilians in this besieged area of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Today, Israeli air strikes on Gaza City killed a 14-year-old boy, Mou'men Al-Adam, and injured two other people, including the boy's father, and an air strike earlier in the day on Rafah led to the killing of a 21-year-old man, Ghaleb Awwad Armeelat. Yesterday, two boys, Muhammad Bassam Abu Mueliq, age 18, and Yousef Al-Talbani, age 16, were also killed by the occupying forces in central Gaza, south of Al-Maghazi refugee camp, after Israeli tanks entered and fired upon the area. These military attacks bring the total of Palestinians killed by Israel since the latest escalation began on Sunday to eight people, with at least 20 more wounded.

The international community, including the Security Council, has a duty to uphold international law, including with regard to the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict in all circumstances. Israel, the occupying Power, must be demanded to cease all its military operations and illegal measures against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in the Gaza Strip, and must be demanded to abide by international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, without exception. This is necessary for the de-escalation of the situation to prevent the onset of yet another cycle of deadly violence in which more innocent civilian lives will be lost.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 430 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 18 June 2012 (A/ES-10/558-S/2012/450) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda Abdelhady **Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Security Council

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# Letter dated 20 June 2012 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, I have the honour to submit the report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for consideration by the Council as part of its interim review of the work of the Executive Directorate pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 1963 (2010) (see annex).

The Committee would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) H. S. **Puri**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

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**Annex**

**Report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on the activities and achievements of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and Executive Directorate from 2011 to 2012, including recommendations for future activities**

# I. Introduction

1. The Security Council, in its resolution 1963 (2010), decided that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate would continue to operate as a special political mission under the policy guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for the period ending 31 December 2013 and also decided to conduct an interim review by 30 June 2012. The Committee, in its 2012 work programme (S/2012/172), stated that the Executive Directorate would assist the Committee in conducting an interim review of the Executive Directorate by 30 June 2012, by preparing and submitting a report to the Committee, in accordance with the same resolution.

2. The present report, prepared by the Executive Directorate pursuant to the above-mentioned resolution and work programme, contains a description of the activities and achievements of the Committee and Executive Directorate during the reporting period, with a particular focus on the elements specifically identified in the resolution. The Executive Directorate hopes that the report will be of assistance to the Committee in its work to advise the Security Council within the framework of the interim review.

3. Of particular note during the reporting period was the organization of a special meeting of the Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations, held in Strasbourg, France, in April 2011. The meeting was jointly organized by the Executive Directorate and the Council of Europe and focused on the prevention of terrorism. It concluded with a forward-looking statement by the Chair, highlighting the many ways in which such organizations could add value to the global counter-terrorism effort, for example, by sharing expertise, providing channels for improved information exchange or conducting activities that help to create formal and informal networks of professionals working in relevant fields. Participants also noted the essential role played by local communities, civil society and the private sector in efforts to prevent individuals from gravitating towards groups that promote ideologies of violent extremism.

4. Also of note was the organization on 28 September 2011 of a further special meeting of the Committee that was open to all States Members of the United Nations and marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Committee. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee adopted a forward-looking outcome document in which all Member States were urged to ensure zero tolerance towards terrorism and take urgent action to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations through the full and effective implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

## II. Visits to Member States

5. Early in 2011, the Committee agreed on a new list of States to be visited over the course of the three-year mandate conferred on the Executive Directorate by the Security Council in its resolution 1963 (2010). As at the end of April 2012, the Executive Directorate had conducted assessment missions to 11 of those States, bringing the total number visited since 2005 to 70 (including seven States that have now been visited twice). The Executive Directorate expected to visit a further five States before the end of June 2012. In addition, the Executive Directorate staff had taken advantage of their presence in a number of other Member States to discuss their counter-terrorism policies and approaches and the challenges they face and to deepen the dialogue on their implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

6. The formal assessment missions and ad hoc visits are an essential part of the work of the Executive Directorate as they not only enable its experts to gather detailed information that enhances the accuracy and level of detail of the preliminary implementation assessments but also provide crucial insight into those counter-terrorism measures put in place across all world regions and those introduced at the national level. The visits have proven particularly useful in the preparation of the global surveys on the implementation by Member States of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

## III. Stocktaking of preliminary implementation assessments

7. Having completed the stocktaking of 25 preliminary implementation assessments over the past 18 months, the Committee has now adopted the initial assessments of all 193 Member States. Moreover, 121 States have entered the second stocktaking cycle. The Executive Directorate has revised the format of the assessments in order to make it more accessible to Member States and Committee experts and to simplify the periodic revision of the global implementation surveys. The Executive Directorate expects that the proposed format, currently before the Committee, will enhance the usefulness of such assessments as an evaluation tool. Once the Committee has adopted the revised format, the Executive Directorate experts will begin transferring data from the current assessments.

## IV. Technical assistance

8. As the Executive Directorate gathers more and more information on the particular challenges faced by Member States in implementing counter-terrorism strategies, its approach to technical assistance facilitation continues to evolve. The Executive Directorate continues to make specific technical assistance referrals relating to needs identified in visited States. During the reporting period, the Executive Directorate made 78 new referrals. Donors agreed to follow up on 74 referrals and in 56 cases the recipient State or institution subsequently agreed to the specific delivery modalities proposed by the donor(s) and/or Executive Directorate. Delivery of assistance has taken place in 65 instances.

9. The Executive Directorate also continued to take a regional or thematic approach to technical assistance facilitation in order to maximize its comparative

advantage as a Security Council body. In that regard, it held the fourth and fifth in the series of workshops for South Asian police, prosecutors and judges, which in turn led to several associated technical assistance projects, including one on witness protection and one on interview techniques in terrorism cases. In an Executive Directorate workshop on border management, held in Mauritania for States of the Sahel, representatives of nine States were brought together to explore the specific border control challenges faced by the subregion. The findings of the workshop have been fed into several follow-up activities, in which the Executive Directorate has been an active participant, including a mission of the Secretary-General to the subregion aimed at assessing the impact of the Libya crisis and the work of the recently established Global Counter-Terrorism Forum.

10. The Executive Directorate continued to implement two other major initiatives launched in 2010: workshops for law enforcement professionals of South-East Europe and practitioners' seminars for prosecutors with experience in dealing with terrorism cases. At the second practitioners' seminar, held in Ankara in July 2011, participants focused on the use of intelligence and other information gathered through special investigative techniques, such as interception, electronic surveillance, covert computer searches, informers and undercover agents. The Executive Directorate expects that both initiatives will lead to specific capacity-building projects to be implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) or by bilateral donors. A third major initiative, on protecting the non-profit sector from abuse by terrorist financers, is described below.

11. Working together with partner organizations, the Executive Directorate also conducted a number of workshops on various thematic issues, notably including the cross-border movement of cash and other bearer-negotiable instruments in South-East Asia. The Executive Directorate is currently co-organizing future events on international joint investigations and the freezing of terrorist assets.

12. The Executive Directorate continues to share information with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) about human rights and rule-of-law technical assistance needs identified during country visits. In all of its referrals, the Executive Directorate works to ensure that the relevant human rights and rule-of-law aspects are integrated into assistance delivery.

13. The reporting period was also marked by the launch of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum. Even though the United Nations is not formally a Forum member, the engagement of the Executive Directorate in its activities is similar to its engagement in those of the former Counter-Terrorism Action Group of the Group of Eight. Since the launch of the Forum in September 2011, the Executive Directorate has actively contributed to the work of its working groups on the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, South-East Asia, criminal justice/the rule of law and countering violent extremism. The Executive Directorate will work closely with the Forum, which it perceives as a potentially effective vehicle for mobilizing political support for counter-terrorism initiatives and for channelling technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives in relevant geographic and thematic areas.

14. The Executive Directorate will also engage actively with the recently established United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism, within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and with the Centre of Excellence in Abu Dhabi.

## V. Updated global survey on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001)

15. Pursuant to resolution 1963 (2010), the Executive Directorate updated the global survey on the implementation by Member States of resolution 1373 (2001). In August 2011, the Committee adopted the survey, in which it noted that, in the decade since the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001), most States had made considerable progress in ratifying the international counter-terrorism instruments, tightening legislation, creating financial intelligence units and other specialized mechanisms, strengthening border and transportation security and improving information exchange and cooperation with other States. However, the Committee also noted that serious gaps remained in certain areas. Many States face genuine challenges in such areas as (a) prosecuting terrorist cases; (b) preventing the financing of terrorism through new payment methods, cash couriers and the misuse of non-profit organizations; and (c) ensuring that counter-terrorism measures comply with their obligations pursuant to international law.

16. Member States are encouraged to address those challenges by developing comprehensive and integrated national counter-terrorism strategies in which attention is drawn to the factors that lead to terrorist activities. In resolution 1963 (2010), the Security Council encouraged the Executive Directorate to engage in dialogue with Member States in that regard, in accordance with their obligations pursuant to international law and in close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its working groups. The Executive Directorate will continue to include those issues in its country visits and dialogue with States.

## VI. Global survey on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005)

17. In resolution 1963 (2010), the Security Council encouraged the Executive Directorate to focus increased attention on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) in its dialogue with Member States to develop strategies to counter the incitement of terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance. In the same resolution, the Council directed the Executive Directorate to produce a global survey of the implementation on resolution 1624 (2005) that assessed the evolution of risks and threats, identified gaps in implementation and proposed new practical ways to implement the re olution.

18. The global survey on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) was adopted by the Committee on 28 December 2011 and forwarded to the Security Council. The survey identified several challenges to implementation, including the difficulty of reconciling action against incitement with human rights principles, the increasing need to tackle incitement through the Internet and other modern communications technologies and the need to prevent the subversion of educational, cultural and religious institutions. The survey identified a number of new practical approaches that could help to strengthen implementation of the resolution, including criminalizing incitement while also providing specific protections regarding freedom of expression; enhancing dialogue at the community and national levels; listening more attentively to the voices of victims and using victims to counter the appeal of those who incite terrorism; setting up rehabilitation programmes for

prisoners and detainees; and including all counter-terrorism activities within a comprehensive and integrated strategy that acknowledges the proper role of each activity in achieving the overall objective of preventing terrorist attacks.

19. The Executive Directorate work programme approved by the Committee in early 2011 included the promotion of resolution 1624 (2005) through the organization of six regional workshops aimed at gathering best implementation practices and developing new ideas for strengthening implementation. At the first of the workshops, held in East Africa in November 2011, officials from nine States of the subregion, relevant international and regional organizations and members of civil society were brought together. Participants gained considerable insight into the complex issues involved and drafted an informal list of principles to guide efforts to tackle incitement through specific projects and strategies. Those principles ranged from the importance of broad partnerships in the field between Government and local communities, civil society, the media and the private sector to the value of tackling the plight of marginalized or excluded communities by empowering youth and women socially and economically, including through targeted education programmes. The workshop also helped the Executive Directorate to identify elements that could form part of comprehensive and integrated national counter-incitement strategies. The second workshop will be targeted at States of the Maghreb and the Sahel and a third at the North Africa subregion. It is expected that both workshop will take place in the second half of 2012.

## VII. Engagement with international, regional and subregional organizations

20. The Executive Directorate continued to work closely with several international, regional and subregional organizations, which serve as force multipliers in its work. They participate in assessment missions, contribute to workshops and conferences and frequently accept the technical assistance referrals of the Executive Directorate. They include the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the African Union, the Counter-Terrorism Task Force of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC and the World Customs Organization.

21. At the special meetings of the Committee, senior officials of other partner organizations were in attendance, including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and addresses were given by the principal officers of several partner organizations, including the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Task Force of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Executive Director of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money-Laundering, the Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism and the Assistant Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

22. The Executive Directorate strengthened its engagement with those and other organizations through the special meeting on terrorism prevention, held in Strasbourg. A number of the organizations were key players in regional and thematic

initiatives of the Executive Directorate, for example, (a) the regional meeting on border management in the Sahel (African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, European Union, ICAO, INTERPOL and IOM); (b) the non-profit organization initiative (INTERPOL and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC); (c) the prosecutors' seminars (African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, Council of Europe, Eurojust and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC); (d) the workshop on cash couriers for South-East Asia (Asia/Pacific Group on Money-Laundering, INTERPOL, Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC and the World Customs Organization); (e) the workshop on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) (African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, African Union, Alliance of Civilizations and OIC); and (f) the workshop for police and prosecutors of South Asia (Commonwealth, European Union and INTERPOL).

23. The Committee and Executive Directorate have also been more active in their engagement with civil society, as encouraged by the Council in its resolution 1963 (2010). Representatives of five non-governmental organizations were invited to make presentations and engage with other participants at the Strasbourg special meeting, and civil society organizations held parallel consultations on resolution 1373 (2001) on the day of the special meeting commemorating the tenth anniversary of the resolution. The Chair attended the latter meeting and also spoke in his national capacity. The Executive Directorate has involved civil society experts in several of the above-mentioned initiatives and their participation was crucial to the success of the workshop on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) since participants focused on ways to address grievances that might be exploited by terrorist recruiters and inciters. Civil society organizations also play a key role in the non-profit organization initiative and have participated in all meetings held so far.

## VIII. Engagement with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and other Security Council bodies

24. The Executive Directorate continued its active engagement with the Office of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, contributing in particular to the deliberations of its working groups on tackling financing of terrorism; protecting human rights while countering terrorism; countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; dialogue, understanding and countering the appeal of terrorism; and border management relating to counter-terrorism, of which the Executive Directorate is co-Chair. The Executive Directorate also continued to act as co-Chair of the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism initiative of the Task Force.

25. One of the most significant initiatives led by the Executive Directorate under the auspices of the task force is the initiative on protecting the non-profit sector, which constitutes a significant element of many national economies, from abuse by terrorist financers. The initiative was launched in London in January 2011 in cooperation with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, several task force partners and the Center for Global Counterterrorism Cooperation. It consists of six regional consultations aimed at identifying ways in which States can regulate the sector and protect it from being abused as a channel for terrorist financing while also ensuring that it is not damaged by being unfairly associated with terrorism. The

three workshops held so far, in Bangkok, Auckland, New Zealand, and Nairobi, have brought together national regulators and policymakers, financial experts, non-governmental organizations and international experts. The initiative will conclude in March 2013 with the production of a compendium of good practices, for use by Member States.

26. Another major initiative led by the Executive Directorate is the compilation, under the auspices of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force border-management working group, of a compendium of international and regional instruments, norms and recommended practices for counter-terrorism-related border control and the development of a framework for the coordinated border-management of border-security risks, which will reference the instruments and measures gathered the compendium.

27. Following the adoption of resolution 2017 (2011), the Executive Directorate was requested to contribute to a United Nations assessment of the terrorist threat to North Africa and subsequently joined a United Nations assessment mission to the Sahel, conducted in December 2011. The focus of the assessment was the potential impact of the Libya crisis and the resulting influx into the subregion of smuggled weapons, particularly man-portable air defence systems. The mission was conducted in close cooperation with the African Union and involved a number of Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities. The mission's findings, including those of the Executive Directorate on the evolution of the terrorist threat to the subregion, were transmitted to the Security Council as part of the assessment requested pursuant to resolution 2017 (2011).

28. The Executive Directorate continued to cooperate closely with the experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), including through the regular exchange of information and mission reports and the preparation of joint documents and joint statements of the three committee Chairs to the Council. The three committees also explored ways to enhance their cooperation in order to avoid duplication of work. The experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and, where appropriate, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) also joined the Executive Directorate in country visits conducted on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

## IX. Human rights

29. In accordance with the policy guidance of the Committee on human rights, the Executive Directorate continued to take account of relevant human rights concerns, including in the preparation of preliminary implementation assessments, in its dialogue with States on behalf of the Committee and within the framework of country visits, regional workshops and other events. Internal human rights guidance for the Executive Directorate was provided by its working group on resolution 1624 (2005) and human rights aspects of counter-terrorism, in the context of resolution 1373 (2001). The Executive Directorate continued to liaise with OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and other human rights entities. The Executive Directorate also continued to take an active part in the Counter-

Terrorism Implementation Task Force working group on protecting human rights while countering terrorism, chaired by OHCHR, which in turn participated in several Executive Directorate activities, including the regional workshop on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005).

## X. Public communications and outreach

30. Much of the public communications and outreach of the Executive Directorate is conducted through the Office of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Department of Public Information. However, the Public Affairs Officer of the Executive Directorate actively publicizes aspects of its work through press releases, articles, briefings to visitors and speeches at conferences and institutions. Meeting documents are regularly posted on the website of the Committee and the Executive Directorate maintains a Twitter account that has around 500 followers (mostly staff of United Nations missions). The Chair of the Committee and the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate also give press conferences, for example, on the occasion of the two special meetings of the Committee. The Chair also presides over regular briefings to the wider membership of the United Nations on the work of the Committee and the Executive Directorate. Those briefings always include a technical briefing by the Executive Directorate on a particular aspect of its work or on an area of counter-terrorism that might be of particular interest to Member States.

## XI. Organization and operation of the Executive Directorate

31. After nearly seven years of operation, the Executive Directorate is currently experiencing a period of significant staff turnover that has imposed certain strains since the selection processes are resource-intensive and prolonged. The Executive Directorate expects that all current vacancies will be filled by mid-2012 and that the new experts will bring a fresh perspective and new insights to its work. Of particular significance was the recent appointment at the D-1 level of the new Deputy Head of the Executive Directorate Assessment and Technical Assistance Office and Special Projects Unit Coordinator, who will lead all major activities that need to be coordinated across the Executive Directorate, for example, major technical workshops and cross-regional and multi-year projects. The Executive Directorate was also allocated a new human rights position as part of its December 2011 budget. That appointment will strengthen the work of the Senior Human Rights Adviser and further enhance the human rights aspect of the work of the Executive Directorate. The budget and staffing complement of the Executive Directorate are otherwise sufficient to implement fully the mandate conferred upon it by resolution 1535 (2004) and supplemented by resolution 1963 (2010).

## XII. Planned future activities

32. The Executive Directorate will engage in the following activities during the remainder of its current mandate:

- Continue to assist the Committee in monitoring and promoting the implementation by Member States of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005)
- Conduct a further 15 assessment missions
- Continue to facilitate the delivery to Member States of technical assistance aimed at enhancing their capacity to implement resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005)
- Complete the initiative on protecting non-profit organizations from terrorist financing abuse
- Complete the regional workshops on the role of prosecutors in counter-terrorism
- Launch the series of regional workshops on strengthening the role of national central authorities
- Launch the series of regional workshops on effective freezing mechanisms
- Continue to conduct law-enforcement and border-management workshops on various border-control themes, including the movement of cash across borders, international joint investigations and international cooperation
- Update as needed the global surveys on the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005)
- Continue to enhance its dialogue with States on the development of national comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies and the mechanisms to implement them
- Continue to conduct workshops in various regions of the world on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005)
- Continue its active engagement with international, regional and subregional bodies concerning the identification and promotion of good practices for the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005)
- Continue its active engagement with United Nations bodies, especially the Office of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its working groups
- Explore further opportunities and areas to engage with newly established bodies, such as the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism

## XIII. Conclusions

33. The Executive Directorate has completed nearly all the specific tasks conferred on it by the Security Council in its resolution 1963 (2010) and will continue to conduct its work with full respect for and in the spirit of the resolution. In particular, it will work to strengthen its facilitation of technical assistance to States aimed at enhancing their implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) and to advise States on the development of comprehensive and integrated national counter-terrorism strategies and their implementing mechanisms. The Executive Directorate will strengthen its engagement with its international and

regional partners, the Office of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and all other Task Force members and will seek opportunities to interact with civil society as appropriate and in consultation with the Committee and relevant Member States, bearing in mind their potentially very significant role in countering terrorism and particularly in promoting the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005).